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INSIDE
EIGHT PAGES
FROM SUNDAY'S
The New York Times
WEEKLY REVIEW

Easing closure is a calculated risk, says Mordechai

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

EASING the closure while threats of a terrorist attack are still strong is a "calculated risk," said Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday, explaining why he decided to ease restrictions barring Palestinian workers from their jobs in Israel.

"It was the correct thing to do, to lift the closure of the territories and allow lives to return to normal as much as possible in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We are aware of the distress. We impose closures when we feel it is effective and can contribute (to security). We don't use closures as punishment," Mordechai said.

"The warnings and alerts remain in effect," he added, noting that security officials believe the closure had lost its effectiveness by suffocating the Palestinian economy and had only a limited effect on the security threat.

Thirty-five thousand Palestinian laborers - 15,000 from the Gaza Strip and the rest from the West Bank - are now being allowed into the country. Only married males over 30 are being given permits, but thousands of others reportedly sneak past police and army roadblocks to look for jobs.

Speaking during a visit to the Tel Hashomer army base, Mordechai said the public is still urged to remain on alert for attacks.

"I can't say the dangers have passed. I can say the dangers still exist and we will do our utmost to deal with it," Mordechai said.

Raine Marcus adds:
Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said the decision to ease the closure was "political and not a police or security decision. There was no choice but to accept the decision, but the police will not change its high alert and its large-scale security measures and countrywide deployment of forces, in light of warnings of terror attacks."

16-year-old suicide bomber price: \$50,000

PALESTINIAN security forces last month thwarted a suicide bombing attack in Israel by a 16-year-old Gaza boy, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday.

Arafat told a visiting Histadrut delegation, led by labor federation chairman and MK Amir Peretz, that Islamic Jihad had offered the boy \$50,000 to carry out the attack. PA Justice Minister Fehi Abu Medein told the visitors that the boy's mother had contacted security officials out of fear for his life.

"We're talking about a family in the worst economic circumstances," Medein said. "The father has been out of work for over a year because of the closure. Islamic Jihad offered the boy \$50,000 - a huge sum in Gaza - to carry out the attack, and this is in addition to the brainwashing they put him through."

Medein said Arafat had given the family a check for \$3,000 and found work for the father with the PA. "But if the closure continues, there will be more cases like this, which we won't be able to stop in time," said Medein. (Iim)



Soldiers from Sgt. Erez Yitzhak's tank regiment cling to one another for support at his funeral in Netanya yesterday. (Asaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

3 more soldiers wounded in Hizbullah attack

DAVID RUDGE

THREE soldiers were wounded yesterday - one seriously and two lightly - when their tank was hit by a Sagger missile in the same area of the security zone where a similar incident occurred on Saturday, in which Sgt. Erez Yitzhak was killed and three members of his tank crew were hurt.

Yitzhak, 19, was laid to rest yesterday afternoon in the military cemetery of his hometown, Netanya. Hundreds of people attended the funeral.

As the service took place in Netanya, doctors and nurses at Hatifa's Rambam Hospital and the Nahariya Government Hospital continued treating the injured. Rambam Hospital deputy director Dr. Zvi Ben-Isai said that the soldier wounded in the neck in Saturday's attack was still in serious condition and was in the intensive care unit of neurosurgery department.

The second soldier wounded in Saturday's attack is being treated in the Nahariya hospital for light-to-moderate injuries. The third soldier was very lightly injured in the attack and received treatment in the field.

Ben-Isai said Cpl. Yishai Ben-Eli, of Jerusalem, who was wounded yesterday, underwent prolonged surgery yesterday and

was afterwards expected to be transferred to the orthopedic department. Ben-Isai said his condition was serious, but stable.

The two other soldiers hurt in yesterday's incident - Lt. Barak Ronen, of Haifa, and Cpl. David Fahima, of Ashdod - both suffered light wounds. Fahima, despite suffering from smoke inhalation, managed to rescue Ben-Eli from the damaged tank.

President Ezer Weizman visited the wounded in Rambam and Nahariya hospitals yesterday. Hizbullah claimed responsibility both attacks in a statement stating that the attacks were launched to mark memorial day for all the "martyrs" of the Islamic Resistance, Hizbullah's fighting arm.

IDF and South Lebanese Army gunners pounded Hizbullah targets in the Jabal Batzil region, in south Lebanon's western sector, where the shooting originated. Reports from Lebanon said virtually all 400 residents of Yatar, north of the zone, fled their homes. There were no reports of any civilian casualties.

A number of the small villages in the area,

including Yatar and Kafra, are known to be Hizbullah strongholds. IDF and SLA gunners did not fire into the villages to avoid harming civilians.

Later, in the afternoon, IAF planes struck another Hizbullah stronghold - the Jabal Saffi region, in the eastern sector of south Lebanon.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits and all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Yesterday's incident occurred early in the morning while troops backed by armored vehicles were searching the area for the Hizbullah squads which carried out the attacks the previous day.

Two Hizbullah squads were involved in Saturday's incident. One of the units approached to within relatively close range of the Karkum post and opened fire with mortars and light weapons. A tank positioned alongside the outpost pulled out of the compound to return fire and was hit by a Sagger missile fired by the second squad from about three kilometers away.

Yitzhak was killed in the attack and his three comrades were wounded.

1 killed, 11 wounded as soldiers fire on Palestinian marchers

SOLDIERS shot one man to death and wounded 11 others yesterday during a protest over land expropriation by Ramallah area villagers.

About 200 Palestinian protesters, including elderly men and women from the villages of Kharbata, Naaleh and Deir Kadis, set off with placards from the central mosque of Deir Kadis toward Kiryat Sefer, two kilometers away, where bulldozers were ploughing up land for housing construction close to the Green Line. The villagers claimed that 2,000 dunams had been confiscated

JON IMMANUEL

for a new settlement.

According to different eyewitnesses, about seven soldiers emerged from behind olive trees and told the protesters to halt, pushing them back. When they advanced a few meters, the soldiers threw tear gas grenades. Some Palestinians responded by throwing a few stones. The soldiers then opened fire, they said, from no more than 10 meters, killing Atallah Amireh, a 36-year-old father of seven.

Friends of Amireh said that

when he was killed, he was carrying papers proving his family's ownership of land on which an extension of Kiryat Sefer is being built.

Ziad Hamed, an eyewitness who works in the Ramallah area District Coordinating Office, said the soldiers' reaction was inexplicable since the protest was coordinated with the Israeli authorities two days earlier and was announced in the newspapers yesterday.

Dor, an Israeli DCO officer, and Hamed separated the soldiers and (Continued on Page 2)

Levy to meet Christopher in Cairo

FOREIGN Minister David Levy will meet with outgoing US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, as well as with the foreign ministers of the European Community's "troika" - Holland, Ireland and Italy - when he flies to Cairo tomorrow for the international economic conference.

Levy will also hold a separate meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, with whom he met 10 days ago in Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser Dore Gold last night flew to Cairo for a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak's adviser Osama Baz. They discussed the peace process and measures to ensure that the Israeli participants in the economic conference would be well received, Channel 1 reported.

The Egyptian government must give domestic businesses the green light to trade with Israeli companies, Finance Minister Dan Meridor told delegates at the Jerusalem Business Conference. "Cairo must send signals to the Israeli people, Arab countries and the world that we are on the track of peace," he said.

After his speech, Meridor met Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny. They finalized details for a series of meetings between Meridor and senior Egyptian ministers, including the prime minister and finance

BATSHEVA TSUR, DAVID HARRIS, and news agencies

minister, and with leading businessmen and academics. "Mubarak, meanwhile, made a thinly veiled call on Israel to adhere to its commitments, saying a Middle East peace settlement is the key to prosperity in the area."

Addressing a new session of parliament, Mubarak said: "Egypt was the first in the peace process and will continue its clear position to call for a comprehensive and just peace which ensures equality for all the people in the region."

Peace will provide security for everyone and will not be held up by those who are trying to destroy it, he said.

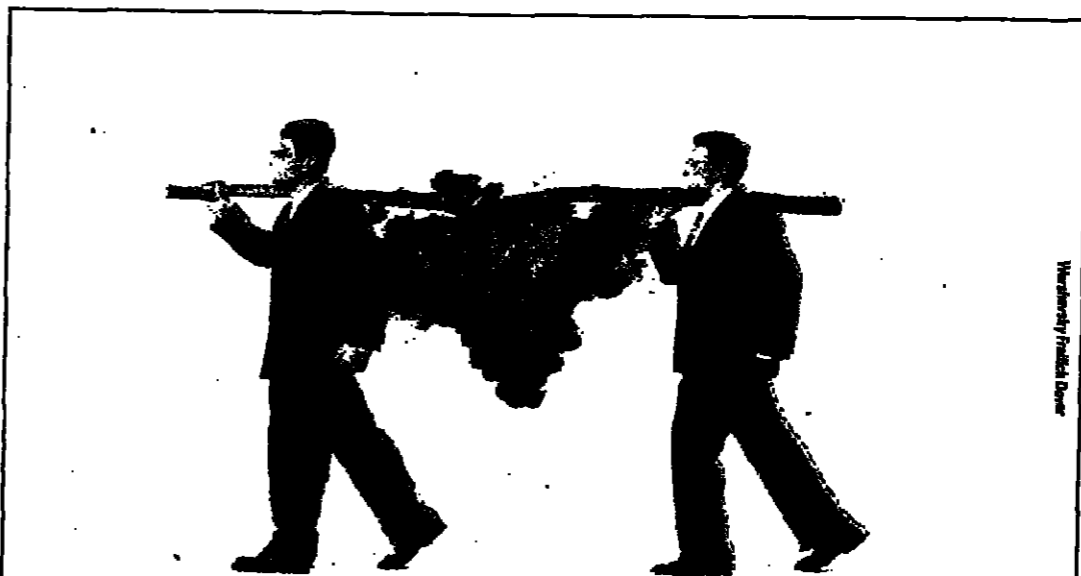
"We call on everyone to adhere

to their choice of peace as a strategic goal like us and that they do so practically by being committed to all agreements reached," he said.

Turning to domestic issues, Mubarak praised the rebuilding of the Egyptian economy and infrastructure following the signing of the 1979 peace treaty.

"Our people went through the battle of restructuring after all these wars, and it is one of the greatest rebuilding battles in the world," he said. "But we are not content with this. We have the bases to reach bigger goals."

"In a matter of years, Egypt changed from being a country, which had a deficit in resources and abilities, which bordered on bankruptcy, to become the largest country in the Middle East which attracts investments."



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Middle America

Coming Home From the Revolution

By ROBIN TONER

WHAT happened to the anger, the boiling discontent, the hunger for change? How did the country end up with a split-the-difference Government after four years of a Great Upheaval that destroyed a Republican President in 1992, shattered a Democratic House in 1994 and upended 60 years of social welfare policy in 1995?

This was supposed to be the era of the big political crack-up. Of a conservative realignment. Maybe even of an emerging third party. Yet here we are, at the end of it all: divided government, again. A President who hugs the center tighter and tighter, having campaigned on appeals for school uniforms and the V-chip, the protection of Medicare and increased family and medical leave. A chastened — and much narrower — Republican House majority that spent much of this campaign running away from its revolutionary image. An electorate whose dominant image was an army of soccer moms driving to the polls in their mini-vans: pick up the kids, drop off the dry cleaning, move the Government to the center again.

The 1996 election casts new light on the contests of '92 and '94.

If the political tumult of the 1990's has indeed come to a close, it may be that the politicians simply overestimated all along how much change the voters wanted, and forgot that the country is a lot more like Mayberry R.F.D. than Paris 1848. Yes, voters were anxious and discontented in 1992, buffeted by a recession and the anxieties of a shifting global economy. But that didn't mean that they wanted the greatest expansion of the social welfare system since the New Deal, as Mr. Clinton attempted with his plan to remake the health care system, or the greatest contraction of it, as Newt Gingrich attempted with his Contract With America.

Another possibility is that the era isn't over. Tuesday's election results could signal that the voters, wielding the blunt instrument of elections, have collectively begun to figure out how much change they want and to calibrate their message. They may have lowered their expectations a little. They may have recognized that the system has, in fact, responded to some of their yearnings. At the same time, as Stanley Greenberg, the Democratic pollster, put it, "if the economy faltered, I have no doubt that the anger would rise fairly quickly and it wouldn't take much for the underlying anxieties to come out."

The election of 1996, in other words, may turn out to have been less an end to the national upheaval than a mid-course correction.

Well before last Wednesday morning, the conventional wisdom was that much of the tumult of the last four years was due to the hubris of politicians, spinning elaborate mandates from raw election returns. Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Clinton seemed to have taken that lesson to heart; by the end of last week, the two were declaring a mandate for nothing more controversial than a search for "common ground."

'More Realistic Electorate'

But their overreaching, in hindsight, may have been necessary to effect any change at all. The Framers made it hard to accomplish big things in the American political system, even when the voters want them. The power of interest groups makes it hard to accomplish even little things. Maybe Mr. Clinton had to try for national health insurance to set the stage for the incremental changes that were to come, like the new law protecting health insurance for people who change jobs and perhaps an effort in the next Congress to expand coverage for children. Maybe Mr. Gingrich had to declare a revolution to bring about a commitment to a balanced budget seven years from now, another long-running concern of the voters.

Along the way, the voters clearly learned something about the costs and the difficulties of change. "This is a much more realistic electorate, I would argue, than we had in 1992," said Geoffrey Garin, a Democratic



Nancy Carpenter

pollster. Many voters learned that universal health insurance would cost more in upset, regulations and risk than they were willing to pay. Many learned that they could not roll back the Federal Government without hurting the programs they liked, such as Medicare.

How else to explain why Bob Dole's proposal to cut taxes by 15 percent fell flat? The last two years have been one long and bitter tutorial on how hard it is to balance the budget, let alone provide a huge tax cut.

There is another way of understanding the last four years: a lot has changed since 1992. The voters did, after all, get a redesigned Democratic Party, retrofitted for the slightly right-of-center 1990's. Mr. Clinton's repositioning since 1994 is often dismissed as a series of short-term tactical maneuvers to ride out a difficult moment in political time. But some historians argue that this redefinition, if it holds, is not a small development. Most analysts agree that the country has grown more conservative over the last 30 years. Mr. Clinton may have succeeded in moving his party toward the new center of political gravity.

"He made it possible for the Democratic Party to

identify itself as moderate, responsible and non-frightening, but marginally more progressive than the Republicans," said Alan Brinkley, a professor of history at Columbia University. Even in the House, where the liberal wing of the party still holds sway within the Democratic caucus, Democrats have nonetheless followed suit; "Families First," their campaign manifesto this year, was a model of Clintonesque incrementalism, offering tax credits and other

modest gestures to help people educate their children, hold on to their health insurance and protect their pensions — in small ways.

Voters also ended up with a reconstituted Republican Party, stronger than 1992's but humbler than 1994's. Here, too, it is easy to dismiss the much-heralded Republican realignment of 1994 as hype, given the party's spectacularly unsuccessful Presidential campaign. Yet a brief look back to the 1980's suggests how much has changed. The Democrats not only held the House through that decade but had an average margin of nearly 80 seats.

At the very least, the voters have put the two parties at rough parity and allowed the conservatives to set many of the terms of the debate: The importance of a

balanced budget by a fixed date. The focus on values. The almost universal get-tough attitude toward crime. The bipartisan decision to scale back basic welfare programs and turn them over to the states.

Walter Dean Burnham, a political scientist at the University of Texas, says the country may not be in the midst of a classic realignment of the kind it saw in 1932, but it is in the midst of a great shift toward "a new equilibrium very, very different from the old order." He added, "I don't know where this leads us."

Many others in politics agree that much remains unsettled from this period of upheaval. There is still a hunger for political reform, given new force late in the campaign by the disclosures about the Democrats' fund-raising practices. There is still alienation among many voters, a feeling that the two parties are simply not enough. And, most important, there is still a profound disagreement and conflict over the role of government.

"Regardless of the partisan balance, something about the shift in debate that was registered in 1994 is going to stay with us," said Theda Skocpol, a professor of government at Harvard and an expert in social policy. "There's just a

Maybe it takes a big uproar sometimes to accomplish small things.

sense that you can't use the Federal Government for big initiatives even if the national problems are big."

Yet while the public sides with the small-government camp in the abstract, the Democrats' defense of Medicare, education and environmental programs hit a powerful chord, particularly with women.

Surveys of people leaving the polls on Tuesday showed a sharp divide on the role of government, particularly between the sexes: 35 percent of the men thought the government should do more to solve problems, while 60 percent said it was already doing too many things, better left to business and individuals. Women were evenly divided on the question.

The coming struggle over Social Security and other entitlements will be a test of how much conservative philosophy the voters are actually willing to live with. "I don't think it's at all settled that the privatizers will have their way," said Ms. Skocpol.

Scholars like Mr. Burnham say this debate was almost inevitable when the cold war — and the prime rationale for a strong Federal Government — ended. The mistrust of Washington began to climb in the late 1960's, amid riots, assassinations and the Vietnam war, and fed the anti-government politics of the Reagan era. Yet pollsters say it coexists

even among the same voters, with a desire to see some action out of Washington.

Many analysts believe that the Republicans saved their majority when they began cooperating with the President and producing legislation last summer. Linda DiVall, a Republican pollster, said, "The message of this election is not that people are content with divided government; actually, their vote was for productive government."

Unsolved Problems

After all, as Mr. Greenberg, the Democratic pollster, argues, the underlying problems that many analysts believe triggered the upheaval of the early 1990's persist: the long-term problem of stagnant incomes and fear over the breakdown of the family. "The good economy has muted the anger, and we've been through a period of repeated, dashed expectations, which makes people cautious about calling on government to do big things," he said. "But that doesn't mean that the problems aren't still real and the potential anger isn't still real."

When the inevitable downturn comes, so, too, might the desperation and fury of the primaries of 1992. The basic question will be the same: Can't the Government do something? The competing fear will be the same, also: Can voters trust their Government to do the right thing? And the calm of 1996 may, in retrospect, look like the eye of a storm.

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Don't measure Asia's progress by counting its female leaders.

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Divided Israel

The religious right killed peace, liberals and secular jews say.

By Joel Greenberg

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The World

Enthralled by Asia's Ruling Women? Look Again.

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

MORE women have led modern governments in South Asia than in any other region of the world. But as the ignominious dismissal of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's autocratic, corruption-riddled Government in Pakistan last week demonstrates, anyone who would write feminist history needs to look hard at how these powerful women have ruled, and what their exercise of authority has meant to the people they governed.

Through Western eyes, women who have come to power in Asia in recent decades often seem to be agents of refreshing change, sweeping away tyrannies as they ride the crests of democracy movements and lead campaigns in the name of "people power." They seem, at first glance, pure and untainted. But are they?

Most of these women have been widows and daughters thrust into power by dynastic imperatives when there was no male heir. When the last echo of the cheering is silent and the campaign posters are fading, they go home to tradition, freighted down with the baggage of mainstream political parties, with their vast patronage systems and rosters of old political debts.

They govern with the rules they learned growing up at a father's knee, a husband's side. Their issues are old issues. In some of the world's poorest countries, these women have had almost no impact on crucial economic



Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan last week.



Corazon Aquino of the Philippines in 1988.



Indira Gandhi of India in 1982.

The daughters and wives of the politically powerful learned politics the old way.

and social problems like education, women's rights and the protection of children. They cannot be viewed, as they often are through Western feminist perspectives, as pioneers. More often than not they are throwbacks to the past in a region that has been short on enlightened leadership from whatever sex, rather than harbingers of a more egalitarian future.

Benazir Bhutto is not alone. Her story only adds a chapter to the checkered history of female political leaders in South Asia. Indira Gandhi, whose long tenure was ended in 1984 by assassins' bullets, left a legacy of subverted democratic institutions and dirty tricks played on small neighboring nations. In Sri Lanka, Sirimavo Bandaranaike trapped a once-promising economy in a tangle of third-world rhetoric. In this decade, an aggressive rivalry between two women in Bangladesh — Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wazed, past and present Prime Ministers — has paralyzed government.

In a region where most women face significant discrimination and deprivation, a female face, behind the prime minister's or president's desk has not brought much change. In societies still dominated by men, especially in the Muslim nations of Pakistan and Bangladesh, women in office may indeed give female politicians a bad name, and may provoke a backlash.

That does not mean they cannot still be powerful

symbols of change — at least for a time. Although Ms. Bhutto campaigned with posters showing her youthful face partly superimposed on a ghostly portrait of her father — Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was overthrown in 1977 and hanged two years later for a political murder — she also rode a new wave of optimism born of an exuberant democratic movement.

However, the sense that Ms. Bhutto, Western educated and "modern," soon reverted to her family's autocratic, feudal mentality and let down so many of her middle-class democratic supporters has filled a well of bitterness. It is not unimportant that buried among the charges leveled against her last week by President Farooq Leghari was a hint that she or her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, was somehow involved in the murder of her brother Murtaza, her only surviving male sibling and therefore a blood threat as well as a political opponent.

Symbols of Democracy

Farther afield, in Southeast Asia, women have been tested less in office. Corazon Aquino, who became President of the Philippines in 1986 after the murder of her husband and the fall of Ferdinand Marcos, proved to be a poor administrator, but that is, in retrospect, almost beside the point. Unlike Ms. Bhutto, Mrs. Aquino stepped aside after bringing democracy and changing history, and memories of her are largely handled kindly. Two

other Southeast Asian women are still in waiting, symbolically important but so far denied power: Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of the hero of Burmese independence, Gen. Aung San; and Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's founding President, Sukarno.

Apart from serving as symbols at critical moments, many of these women, including Sri Lanka's current President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, whose father and husband were assassinated, have shown unexpected courage and political savvy. Asian political scientists credit them for this, even when otherwise critical.

"When there is no clear succession line and old party leaders fight among themselves, they often bring in a woman as a symbolic head acceptable to all factions," said Rounaq Jahan, a Bangladeshi political scientist now at Columbia University. "They think they can manipulate these women. But every time they were surprised that once in power, the women handled the men and mastered old-style politics."

Chan Heng Chee, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States, cited Indira Gandhi, daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru. "She was very much a leader; she had ideas," Dr. Chan said. "The Congress Party appointed her as a compromise, thinking they could manipulate her, but she quickly took over the reins. She stood out." Unfortunately, Mrs. Gandhi also was prepared to abolish civil liberties to save her political career.

How to respond to women who come to power

dynastically has become an increasingly contentious issue for women's rights advocates in Asia.

When Ms. Bhutto took office in 1988, Abida Hussain, refused the opposition's invitation to become its leader in Parliament. "Frankly, my feminist ideology was a little bit troubled at the thought of being manipulated by a whole bunch of men to take on a woman because I am a woman," she said. Then, when Ms. Bhutto was dismissed the first time, in 1990, members of Islamabad's Women's Action Forum had a heated debate about whether to support her simply because she is a woman. Today, Ms. Hussain is back in government — in the administration installed after Ms. Bhutto's ouster.

A New Approach

Asian women are approaching the perimeters of power in new ways, said Ms. Jahan. "Having one symbolic woman as head of government does not influence or change the social agenda or the political fabric," she said. "All the headway women have been making has been through the women's movement, through alternative organizations, nongovernmental organizations, citizens' movements."

But, Ms. Jahan said, penetrating the top ranks is another matter. To do that, she said, women still require a political base and the ability to raise money — things the offspring of dynasties can take for granted.

Two Societies, Bitter and Suspicious

Rabin's Death Still Divides Israel

By JOEL GREENBERG

AT first, the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin a year ago seemed to many Israelis a cataclysmic event that would forever change the face of the country. One hope was that it would galvanize Israelis to unite behind his legacy.

But as the first anniversary of the killing came and went last week, it was clear that that had not happened at all. Far from a turning point, the assassination of the soldier of peace at the hands of a religious nationalist remains a searing symbol of the divisions in Israeli society — and, perhaps, an augury of violence to come.

Mr. Rabin's death, it seems, has no shared meaning for Israelis. Instead it prompts angry debates, reinforcing the views of the warring sides — and a deepening sense that Israelis are becoming two peoples. At one

The religious right killed peace, liberal and secular Jews say.

pole there is a worldly society with a yearning for normalcy, at the other a community of believers who elevate devotion to Biblical lands and divine precepts above the laws of the state.

To many liberal and secular Israelis, the assassination was the climax of an assault by the religious right on peace efforts and on hopes for a more open society.

To many religious and nationalist Israelis, Mr. Rabin's death has become an ugly tool in the hands of his supporters, wielded to cast collective guilt on all those who disagreed with Mr. Rabin. Alienated from the political message of the tributes to Mr. Rabin, few religiously observant people attended a mass memorial in Tel Aviv last weekend, or joined in the pilgrimages to the site where he was gunned down.

As teen-agers in jeans sat in a tearful vigil at the scene of the shooting on a recent morning, a lone yeshiva student stood tentatively at a distance, reading Psalms. His friends too had wanted to mourn, he said, but they had stayed away because they were hurt by the "incitement" against Orthodox Jews after the killing, and were put



Israelis marked the anniversary last week of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination with visits to his grave in Jerusalem.

off by a secular cult of mourning that has grown up around Mr. Rabin's death.

The sense of separation has intensified Israel's own "culture war": ultra-Orthodox Jews denounce the Supreme Court and make threats against judges; peace advocates warn that they will resist army service if the Government leads Israel to war, and there are protests in Jerusalem over closing a main roadway on the Sabbath.

"Two peoples are living side by side, speaking two languages in the same tongue, reacting differently to the same events," the author Yizhar Smilansky wrote in a newspaper column for the anniversary.

Gadi Yatziv, a sociologist, argued in a tongue-in-cheek essay last week that the differences were so profound that Israelis would do better to divide into two states to avoid a civil war: a nationalist-religious

State of Judea, Samaria and Gaza in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem, and a liberal democracy known as the State of Israel in the rest of the country.

Some Israelis resist the divisions, fighting to reach common ground. One such group held a teach-in near the national cemetery where Mr. Rabin is buried. And in Jerusalem Rabbi David Hartman, an Orthodox educator and philosopher, opened a new campus of an institute devoted to promoting a pluralistic study of the Jewish tradition. "We must claim the center," Rabbi Hartman said. "We want to show that there is another voice in the tradition, to build a bridge to Moses."

But so far, the rifts have defied resolution; one reason is that they have causes far older than the assassination of Mr. Rabin. Bitter splits between right and left have

occurred throughout the history of the Zionist movement and Israel, erupting on occasion in deadly violence. It is true that the killing of the Prime Minister seemed to be an event of an entirely different order. But for all the shock it caused, it did not break the old patterns of confrontation. Instead it became an episode, if the most tragic, in a continuing process of estrangement.

Netanyahu's Role

So deep is the alienation today that many supporters of Mr. Rabin link his assassination to the victory of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in elections last May. Blaming Mr. Netanyahu for condoning incendiary right-wing protests before the killing, they argue that he has now effectively wiped out Mr. Rabin's legacy of peace.

Nationalist Jews resent collective blame for the killing.

"The murderer won," said Shlomo Lahat, the former mayor of Tel Aviv who organized the peace rally at which Mr. Rabin was shot. A woman visiting the site of the killing with her baby said bitterly: "They've murdered and also inherited. When I was pregnant there was so much optimism, a sense that we were going somewhere. But this baby was not born into peace."

A more optimistic view is that the election showed that Israel remains a robust democracy precisely because Mr. Rabin's adversaries could make their case even in the face of widespread revulsion at a fanatic's act.

In this view, Mr. Rabin even while alive had only partly persuaded Israelis to abandon their fears of the Arabs, and what really turned the electorate toward the right was a series of suicide bombings in the heart of Israel by Muslim militants months after the assassination.

This view holds that whatever the horror felt about the assassination, voters were able to distinguish between their grief and their profound doubts about Mr. Rabin's policies. "By all indications the murder of Rabin had almost no influence on the election results," wrote Tom Segev, a historian. "There is no certainty that Rabin would have been elected."

In his campaign, Mr. Netanyahu played on Israeli fears of the Arabs, promoting a stance of nationalist solidarity that his supporters felt had been abandoned by Mr. Rabin and his successor, Shimon Peres, in their drive to make peace with the Arabs.

But aides to Mr. Netanyahu argue now that the Prime Minister is too attuned to the world to simply return Israel to an insular fortress mentality. "He is wary, but he does not have this suspicion that everybody is against us," said David Bar-Ilan, a close adviser. "He is much more open to the idea that the world can be supportive and sympathetic."

Nonetheless, the rift remains. And it was left to Mr. Rabin's grandson, Yonatan Ben-Artzi, to publicly sum up the pervasive sense among Israelis that the assassination had only driven them apart.

"A year has passed," he said at his grandfather's grave, "and nothing has changed."

Ideas & Trends

Just When Guys Thought It Was Safe, Kablooney!

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

FELLOW Gentlemen, the good part is that we know what we're up against. It's in writing. Women have banded together in an iron-tight ideology to make men feel desperate enough to prostrate themselves in front of their shiny high heels and beg them to marry.

The ideology consists of 35 rules, most of which are aimed at outwitting anxious men. Ladies are ordered not to telephone men who interest them, or return their calls. They are never to pick up half the tab, and must always be the one to stop holding hands first. Light kissing is permitted on the first date, but intimacy remains something to be laddled out in miserly doses.

Why would women need 'The Rules' when they've already won the game?

And if the dolt gives Miss Perfect something really expensive but not sufficiently romantic for Valentine's Day, the response is pretty darned obvious: dump him.

So it is for "Rules Girls," as these cynically manipulative females are called in the current best seller, "The Rules" (Warner Books), written by two predators who parlayed their tricks into what they suggest may be heaven on earth, marriage in the suburbs. The book's dust jacket tells us that the author Ellen Fein's broomstick landed in Long Island, while the other, Sherrie Schneider, made it to celestial New Jersey.

It's a grim, dirty business, but the outcome could be a new home, a new life and half of Mr. Right's assets, if Rules Girls keep their beady eyes on the prize. "Don't call him even when you feel mean about not calling him," saith the scripture.

What has happened to the last half century of our country's social history? Did the previous generation burn all those bras for nothing? What was the point of a generation of women climbing the greasy slope of

corporate America, starting a majority of the nation's new businesses, running for office in ever-increasing numbers? Don't we now live in a world where liberated women can ask a man out and take some of the pressure off all of us?

But that's not the point of this letter to fellow males. Our problem is that even before this evil book we were already outclassed, out-thought and outmaneuvered by females. If we didn't control most of the money, good jobs and governments, we'd be pretty pathetic. Think back to your typical group of 4-year-olds in preschool. The girls color between the lines, chat intelligently with one another and put most of their food inside their mouths. Boys, on the other hand, roam noisily about in formless herds, brandish super-hero action figures menacingly and taunt the fairer sex with their acerbic wit.

It only gets worse. By adolescence we have learned to play football and form rock groups, and are well on the way to becoming the charmers we will be in college. We will stare at a phone for an eternity and then chicken out before calling the mysterious female described in "The Rules." At dances, we will play games like asking only the women over six feet tall to dance to minimize our chances of rejection. The fact is men have scant idea what they want and less idea how to get it, and are nearly powerless before women in general, not to mention the cunning Rules Girls.

To them, the wedding is the be-all and end-all. Dr. Stephen Feld, vice president of clinical affairs at Grace Square Hospital in New York City, says this may be the book's biggest fallacy. Marriage as the goal is "simplistic and limited," he says, since it is merely part of a relationship's continuum.

Rules Girls, though, see a big difference after marriage. Once a man is nailed down, the authors advise them to accord him princely treatment, including allowing him to go on weekend trips by himself. "You just try to be serene and unselfish, or you won't be a happy princess," the book advises.

Unwritten: Male Rules

Dr. William Fried, a psychiatrist at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, says this sharp sea change in behavior sounds like a recipe for divorce. "What is the word?" he asked. "Inscrutable?"

More than anything, "The Rules" are based on a



Alison Seiffers

threat. Rules Girls always strive to create the impression they are very busy, most likely with other men. If a particular date isn't working out, trade him in for a new model immediately. "Remember, there are lots of men out there," the book keeps repeating.

Men, too, have idealized views of relationships, sometimes involving frequent and perfect sex followed by the beloved maiden floating into the darkness only to

return, miraculously, with a pizza and a six-pack. But few write how-to books about that.

All we can do is assume that whenever the phone doesn't ring, the person who is not on the other end is someone scheming to bear our children. It's almost enough to make you want to go bowling with the guys.

Fraternally yours,
Doug

Isn't It Romantic?

Hollywood Adopts the Canon

By DINITIA SMITH

"YOU know Shakespeare? William Shakespeare? We're peddling him on the street." Al Pacino growls in the distinctive tones of the Bronx in "Looking for Richard," his new documentary about Richard III. And to some extent he has succeeded. "Richard" is now playing in 54 theaters nationally, not bad for a documentary, let alone one about Shakespeare. In fact, an MTV-like "William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet," with sex, cross-dressing and rock music — but still with Shakespearean language — was No. 1 at the box office last weekend.

In the next few months there will be a spate of big-budget movies based on the novels of Henry James, works of suppressed eroticism and emotional violence. In December, "The Portrait of a Lady" will open, with Nicole Kidman as an heiress manipulated by her best friend into an unhappy marriage for the sake of her money. Following that will come "Washington Square," with Jennifer Jason Leigh and "Wings of the Dove," with Helena Bonham-Carter.

Numbed by brutal action movies aimed at teen-age boys, audiences are hungry for the classics. An aging, educated population wants to escape into the more universal themes of love and family, ambition and power.

"There are no more classics left to film — they're all in production," said Lynda Obst, the producer who wrote "Hello, He Lied" (Little Brown, 1996), a memoir of her 15 years in Hollywood.

"The market has been shaken and stirred by the success of the independents like Merchant-Ivory's 'A Room With a View,'" said Ms. Obst, who is hoping to mount a production of "Anna Karenina." "The independents showed there is no one formula for success — as long as you have good, good stories."

Shakespeare in Huts

This hunger for the classics, however, is no new thing in American life. Throughout the 19th century, drama, opera and orchestral music fed a craving for culture at all levels of society. Shakespeare was presented with singers, jugglers, acrobats and dancers. In his 1988 book "Highbrow/Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America" (Harvard University Press), Lawrence W. Levine, professor of cultural history at the University of California at Berkeley, noted that Shakespeare was more popular in this country than in England. When Alexis de Tocqueville toured America in the 1830's, he found Shakespeare performed in every frontier settlement and mining town. "There is hardly a pioneer's hut that does not contain a few odd works of Shakespeare," he wrote.

It was only at the turn of the century that the distinction between "high" and "low" culture emerged. Culture became "sacralized" and "aristocratized." Mr. Levine argues, by a patriarchy alarmed at the arrival of hordes of non-English-speaking immigrants.

When Henry James returned to the States in 1904 after a long absence in Europe, he complained in "The American Scene" that "face after face, unmistakably, was 'low' — particularly in men... no sound of English, in a single instance, escaped their lips." He could see a society moving "away — away always and everywhere, from the old presumptions and conceivabilities."

A century later, the boundaries between high



Leonardo DiCaprio gets homicidal in "William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet."



Shelley Duvall in "The Portrait of a Lady."



Al Pacino in "Looking for Richard."

and low culture seem to be dissolving once again. One reason is the nature of the late 20th-century audience itself, with both MTV and PBS beamed into many households.

It is also the most educated mass audience in history. "Today, we have the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of that great wave of immigration," said Mr. Levine, whose new book is titled "The Opening of the American Mind: Canons, Culture and History" (Beacon Press). "And a huge number of them have gone through college."

This educated audience is demanding more complex fare. Many of the new classical works — films based on Jane Austen, Henry James and even Thomas Hardy ("Jude the Obscure") — fill the void for adult entertainment, for women in

particular. "There's a large, white middle-class woman's audience that's been bereft of material for 40 years ever since the demise of Joan Crawford, Bette Davis and Betty Grable," said Ann Douglas, a cultural historian at Columbia University who wrote "Terrible Honesty: Mongrel Manhattan in the 1920's" (Noonday/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1996).

Most of these new classics are models of decorum and sumptuous feasts for the eye. "They're a return to period drama when every inch of skin is covered," Ms. Douglas said. "Isn't it moving when Daniel Day-Lewis kisses the glove of Michelle Pfeiffer in the movie of Edith Wharton's 'Age of Innocence'? How significant sex can seem when seen against a society where social decorum rules!"

In Cable TV, More Is Less

By MARK LANDLER

WITH its mix of politicians and plutocrats, high finance and low blows, the feud between Time Warner and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is a quintessentially New York brawl.

But as the media moguls fight over which cable news channels New Yorkers will see, it's worth recalling where this grudge match began: not in New York but in the warrens of a Washington regulatory agency.

The battle grew out of the Federal Trade Commission's attempt to contain one burgeoning media empire at a time when the whole industry is consolidating into a handful of octopus-like conglomerates. In trying to satisfy the F.T.C.'s antitrust lawyers, Time Warner wound up antagonizing another vast conglomerate, Mr. Murdoch's News Corporation.

To some critics, these events show that the Government has little chance of controlling — or even fully understanding — the newly deregulated communications industry.

Congress opened up this Pandora's box of consolidation in the media industry without leaving in place enough tools to curb the excesses," said Gene Kimmelman, the co-director of the Consumers Union, an advo-

of MSNBC, which is owned by NBC and Microsoft and was the only other viable candidate for the slot.

Why Time Warner antagonized Mr. Murdoch — given his political clout and his willingness to use his media properties to settle scores — is a question that has puzzled many in the industry. Part of the answer, Time Warner's executives and advisers say, is that the company was caught in its own web of conflicting alliances.

Tangles

Here is where things get truly complicated. Among Turner's major shareholders is the nation's largest cable operator, Tele-Communications Inc. When Time Warner acquired Turner, TCI became a big shareholder of Time Warner. That troubled the F.T.C. because it linked the two largest cable distributors, who control access to 40 percent of all cable subscribers, with CNN.

In demanding that Time Warner carry a second news channel, the F.T.C. did not stipulate a choice, but was forthright about its fundamental goal: it wanted to diminish the influence of Tele-Communications and its chief executive, John C. Malone.

So why didn't Time Warner simply agree to carry Fox? Well, it turns out that Mr. Malone also has important ties to Mr. Murdoch. Tele-Communications has agreed to distribute the Fox News Channel to 10.8 million of its cable subscribers.

If Time Warner had agreed to carry Mr. Murdoch's channel, said one lawyer who advises the company, NBC and every other programmer vying for a slot on Time Warner's cable system would immediately have cried foul. Having agreed to distance itself from Mr. Malone, Time Warner would effectively be inviting him right back into the tent.

Some media critics say this argument is window-dressing for what was essentially a business decision. And most media executives suspect that the News Corporation and Time Warner, given their latticework of business relationships around the world, will patch up their dispute. Even Ted Turner, the new vice chairman of Time Warner who has been the main target of Fox's newspaper ads, said at a recent charity benefit in New York, "Everybody thinks we're going to sit down and do a deal."

The bigger question is whether the Government can regulate an industry that has become so incestuous. William J. Baer, the director of the F.T.C.'s bureau of competition, said, "You have to ask, 'Are there bottlenecks that will affect what consumers can see on television?' And then, 'Can you do anything about them?'"

In the cable news wars, the answer to Mr. Baer's first question would seem to be yes. To his second, it would seem to be, at best, maybe.

Consolidation is moving faster than the regulators can.

cacy group based in Washington.

At the moment, the New York battle looks like this: Time Warner continues to deny channel space on its cable system for Mr. Murdoch's Fox News Channel. After Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani took Mr. Murdoch's side, threatening to run the Fox channel on a city-owned station, a Federal district judge last week barred the plan for the time being. The Giuliani administration plans to appeal, and Fox takes out daily newspaper ads accusing Time Warner of monopolizing New York's cable fare.

But the seeds of the dispute were planted in July, when the F.T.C. approved Time Warner's merger with Turner Broadcasting System, which owns CNN. To prevent Time Warner from shutting out rivals to CNN, the F.T.C. made the company agree to carry a competing news channel on its cable systems.

That should have been good news for Mr. Murdoch, who was starting the news channel. After extensive negotiations, however, Time Warner abruptly jilted Mr. Murdoch in favor

The Nation

Sunny, Chance of Vote Results

By MICHAEL WINES

SOMETHING momentous happened on Tuesday, and it wasn't an election: On Nov. 5, 1996, television news became weatherized.

It was no secret. To the contrary, for anyone who watched the vote count on the major television networks, it was impossible to miss.

On CBS and ABC, Dan Rather and Peter Jennings, once impeccably groomed talking heads, were recast as impeccably groomed talking computer jocks. Mounted on high-tech daises in futuristic studios, they passed the night rapping their fingers on touch-sensitive video screens, summoning maps and vote totals to the airwaves.

Yards away, their sidekicks analyzed the results in virtual-reality studios, chatting amiably while computer-generated bar graphs sprouted from the floor around them and huge charts rose, fell and spun in the ether behind their unprotected heads.

Everyone was linked to a web site on the Internet. NBC urged its viewers to drop what they were doing — watching NBC, presumably — and point their mice at the Microsoft-NBC site for election returns and exit polls. Those who remained were given the option of leaving for the Microsoft-NBC cable channel, MSNBC, a place where many of the network's leading political correspondents were already appearing. This made sense, for NBC had almost no on-air computer gee-whizzery and thus nothing viewers would want to hang around for, except maybe election returns.

Computer-driven television news is not an entirely new phenomenon, of course; the logos and color-coded maps and other graphic devices wielded on election night have grown spazzier every two years as technology has advanced.

If computers seemed to have gained unstoppable momentum last week, the explanation is the same one that governs the use of technology in war and motion pictures: when it becomes available, it gets used.

Take CBS: In past Presidential elections, journalists had been able to grind out elec-

tion-night vote totals and other data only by taking control of the network's mainframe computer in New Jersey, a big Cray that processed paychecks.

"The problem was that a big computer, while very fast and powerful, did just one thing at a time," said Lane Venardos, producer of CBS's election-night coverage.

That meant delays of two or three seconds — an eternity, in live TV — in getting series of charts and graphics on the screen. So CBS News ditched the old Cray this year in favor of nine new workstations from Silicon Graphics and some 100 personal computers.

Until 1992, ABC's election-night map — which lit up in red or blue, depending on which party won a state — was a box filled with hundreds of light bulbs. "ABC projects Ronald Reagan wins in California; somebody flicks a switch; 27 light bulbs come on," said Roger Goodman, ABC's executive director and resident computer whiz.

Happy-Face Suns

ABC bought \$6 million in new Silicon Graphics computers when they became available this summer. It worked with an Israeli firm, Orad, to create a computer program for a virtual background that adjusts its perspective as a camera pans. On election night, the network's charts, maps and virtual effects were more detailed, more quickly displayed and, Mr. Goodman exulted, more realistic than ever.

Which is what happened to television weather long ago.

Twenty-five years ago, in the Bronze Age of TV news, the 6 o'clock weather report was two minutes of a portly man or a fetching woman armed with a felt-tip marker, drawing arrows on a map. Well-heeled stations ornamented the maps with stick-on clouds and a happy-face sun.

Computers changed all that. Clouds were animated with flashing lightning and drizzling rain. The maps danced with cold fronts and jet streams. The felt pen went the way of the slide rule, supplanted by a wand, that conjured videos of the Earth from space and Doppler radar on the ground.

Weather men and women began to groom themselves impeccably. They learned how to stand in front of blue backdrops and point to virtual highs and lows that did not exist except on computers, and which they could not see except on TV screens off-camera.

It began as a gimmick, and ratings rose. But the weatherpeople also began to come equipped with degrees in meteorology. And — zounds — the weather report got better.

TV news folks insist that their new computer toys are not gimcrackery and hype (and if they were, they failed miserably last week, since viewers stayed away from network election-night coverage in record numbers). No, the TV executives say, the additions are serious journalistic tools that impart more information, and faster. Sure, and newspapers run advice columns as a public service to the lovelorn.

ABC's gummetal-colored set, with correspondents perched on balconies and stowed in far corners, was compared to the headquarters of Dr. No in the old James Bond movie and to the Starship Enterprise. CBS seemed determined to advertise its computer literacy with regular overhead shots, à la David Letterman's Skycam, showing Mr. Rather's hands pecking at various computer-screen icons, sometimes fruitlessly. Mr. Rather seemed to have a sense of proportion about it all; at one point he referred to his virtual-reality sidekick as "the manually operated Harry Smith."

"Sometimes the high tech overwhelmed the information," said Ed Foubly, a former CBS executive who now runs the Pew Center for Civic Journalism in Washington.

The technology is in its infancy. When virtual bar graphs ruptured the studio floor beneath Mr. Smith, the temptation to yell "Look out, Harry!" was almost overwhelming. The digital anchor will probably become a routine and valuable part of journalism, just like the digital weatherman.

Outside the studio, though, it still gets cold in the winter, and hot during the summertime. And any card-carrying reporter, laptop-equipped or not, will verify that the best way to find out what it's really like is still to exit virtual reality and take a walk outdoors.



For the viewers at home, Harry Smith of CBS demonstrates reality . . .



. . . and, in a snap, new, improved, fancy-schmancy election-night computer reality.

Say 'Please'

Unposed! Rare Campaign Photo Ops.

The first campaign photo op probably dates to not long after the first photograph. But, with campaigns becoming more orchestrated and professional handlers routinely shielding their clients from the press and even the public, increasingly the staged photo op — produced with the most flattering support-

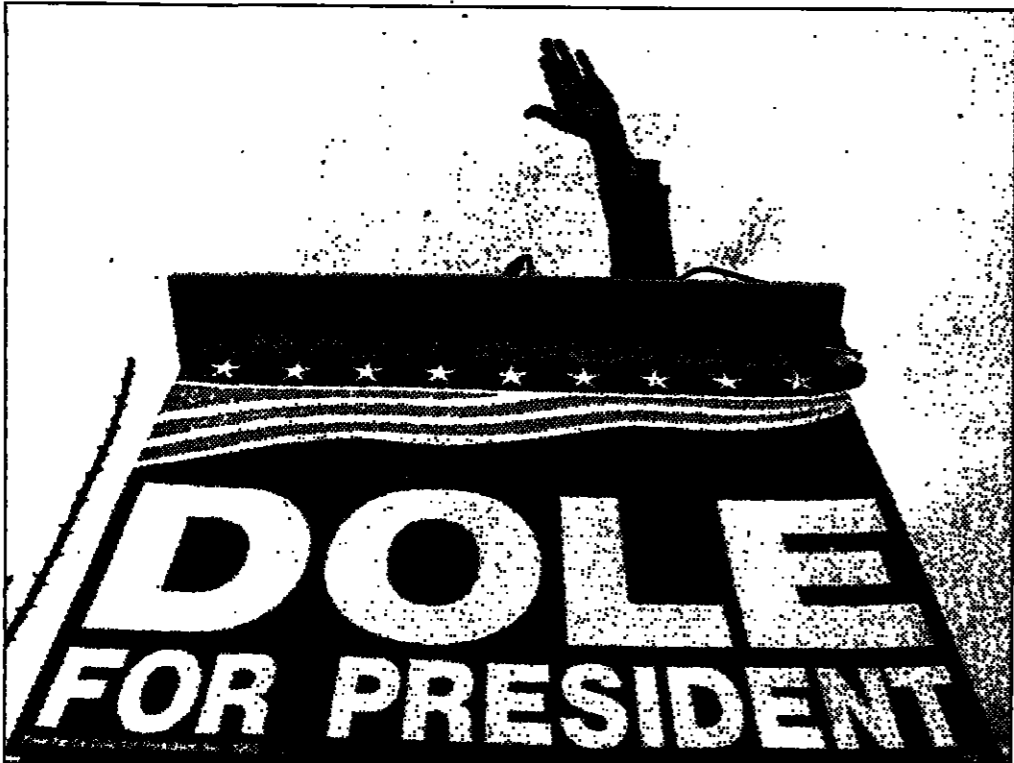
ing cast and the perfect backdrop — can be less an opportunity for photographers than for candidates. Which is why unposed images captured during some rare spontaneous moments often are the most revealing and the most enduring. Here are a few from the 1996 Presidential campaign.



An exuberant Bob Dole says goodbye to the town of Frankenmuth, Mich., last month as his bus rolls away after a day of campaigning.



President Clinton is reflected in Hillary Rodham Clinton's sunglasses, at a rally last week in San Antonio, Texas.



Bob Dole in Green Valley, Ariz., in February; the camera angle suggests a sinking ship.



President Clinton, the consummate campaigner, reveling as Vice President Gore introduces him in Cleveland last week.

Cyber-Mice That Roar, Implausibly

By MATTHEW L. WALD

AT first it sounded like big news: a veteran journalist and ex-spokesman for President John F. Kennedy said he had a document showing that TWA Flight 800 had been shot down by the Navy.

People should have been skeptical from the outset. The journalist, Pierre Salinger, said the ship firing the missile was a P-3. The United States Navy does operate P-3's, but they are planes, not ships.

And the story had an oddly familiar ring to it. So CNN called Mr. Salinger and read him, line by line, the material it had and, sure enough, that was what he had.

What CNN was reading was an Internet message posted anonymously in late August, about a month after the crash of the Boeing 747 off the Long-Island coast. It had been widely circulated and rejected for its implausibility. Mr. Salinger's "document" was a printout of the same thing.

Theorizing about plane crashes is nothing new, but it used to be called gossip. Now it takes the form of E-mail or Internet postings, and it has a new credibility.

"It's been blessed by the computer, and sprinkled with techno holy water," said Clifford Stoll, an Internet pioneer turned critic. "The gossip that comes across the Internet comes in precisely the same format as does professional news, Wall Street reports and important other factual information."

With Mr. Salinger's reputation behind it, the story had such an authoritative aura that the Federal officials leading the investigation felt compelled to appear at a news conference to deny it. Among the problems: the P-3 isn't armed and, the Navy said, wasn't in the area at the time; there was a ship, but it was too far away. The Navy said, and the wreckage shows no sign of missile damage.

The Navy theory is one of many implausible ideas on the Internet. Debate rages in news groups, where missile enthusiasts and bomb aficionados DUKE IT OUT IN CAPITAL LETTERS!!! and disparage each other's intelligence, even parentage. Thus ordinary scuttlebutt at the watercooler (a redundancy; a scuttlebutt was the small barrel on ships where sailors got their drinking water) is now for the whole world to read and believe.

FILM

Pout or Shout, Hollywood is Coming to Town in Force

To tinsel-minded Hollywood the big season is here, offering visions of Oscars and box-office hits.

By BERNARD WEINRAUB

LOS ANGELES LISTEN to the sound of holiday cheer in Hollywood. "Unbelievably nerve-racking," said Sherry Lansing, chairman of the Paramount Motion Picture Group, which has five films opening over the holidays. "There's so much competition this year, so many choices, that good quality films can get lost. We're literally cannibalizing each other."

"It's insane — a ridiculous amount of movies are coming out," said Scott Rudin, a prolific producer who has three movies opening this season: "Ransom," "Mother" and "Marvin's Room."

"I'm leaving town," said Stephen Herek, director of the forthcoming live-action version of Walt Disney's "101 Dalmatians." "It's too nail biting."

And Steve Golin, the producer of "The Portrait of a Lady," observed, "If you're not terrified, you're an idiot." In the real world, the holiday movie season begins on Thanksgiving weekend. In Hollywood, the season began on Friday with the opening of the thriller "Ransom," in which Mel Gibson plays a rich man whose young son has been kidnapped.

The strategy for the season sounds simple: start the race early, before the rest of the mob. It doesn't always work, of course. Last year the first studio hopeful was Jodie Foster's "Home for the Holidays." It didn't make it.

The holiday movie season is always an anxious time in Hollywood, even scarier than summer, which is terrifically scary. This year the seasonal anxiety is particularly acute because so many films will spew forth. At least 25 major films will open across the country in November and December, and at least 23 more will be seen briefly in a few major cities like New York and Los Angeles. Last year, the holiday was equally crowded. Darwin could have used these seasons in Hollywood as a testing ground.

Part of the explanation is economic. The five weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas account for as much as 15 percent to 20 percent of annual ticket sales. Each day between Christmas and New Year is, according to exhibitors, like Saturday at the movies. And in contrast with 1995, the holidays this year fall in midweek, making the weekends potentially even more lucrative. So from a financial point of view, the glut makes sense.

But the issue is more complicated. In addition to the desire to score big at the box office, there is the desire to cram as many potential Oscar candidates — whether for best picture or best actor or actress — into that little envelope before year's end, when Oscar voters will presumably have the best chance of remembering possible nominees.

Christmas-themed movies are, of course, a natural for this time of year, as are movies that simply feel all snugly and warm, whether or not they have explicit holiday themes.

Finally, the frenzy seems to beget its own frenzy, as movie makers simply pile in, as if driven by some lemminglike urge to compete. The studios are seemingly indifferent to the fact that there may be such a thing as too many movies in too short a time.

Every holiday needs to have an action film. Whatever the quality of "Daylight" (opening Dec. 6), in which Sylvester Stallone saves a bunch of New York motorists trapped in a tunnel beneath the Hudson River, it is the only big special-effects action movie of the season.

"We've got a built-in audience with a big star and a great concept," said John David, the producer of "Daylight." "And there's nothing on the market quite like us."

Similarly, Barbra Streisand's "Mirror Has Two Faces" is the only romantic comedy arriving before Thanksgiving, giving it a clear opening for predominantly women's audiences before a tide of comedies opens around Christmas. (Other films that are aimed at specific audiences and that seem to have a clear field include "Star Trek: First Contact" and "Beavis and Butt-head Do America.")

At one end of the spectrum are holiday films intended for children, like "101 Dalmatians," starring Glenn Close as the wicked Cruella De Vil; "Jingle All the Way," an Arnold Schwarzenegger comedy, and "Space Jam," a \$100 million extravaganza that pairs the basketball star Michael Jordan with the Looney Tunes animated gang about which Gerald M. Levin, the chairman of Time Warner, offered an amazingly candid description: "Space Jam" is not a movie. It's a merchandising event. Also in this category is Tim Burton's "Mars Attacks!" with Jack Nicholson and Ms. Close, which might be seen as a children's movie for adults.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are films considered Oscar-worthy. In December, just before the awards season, comes a surge of serious Hollywood movies in limited runs. The rationale? Good movies that opened much earlier in the year will somehow be forgotten by the academy voters and that odd group of journalistic hangers-on called the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, whose raison d'être is to award the Golden Globes in January.

Is it really necessary to set off a flood of quality films after five or six arid months? Of course not. Academy Award winners like "Silence of the Lambs," "Forrest Gump" and "Dances With Wolves" were released earlier in the year without losing Oscar momentum — or suffering at the box office. In fact, only one of last year's nominees for best picture, "Sense and Sensibility," came out during the holidays. The others — "Apollo 13," "Babe," "Braveheart" and "The Postman" ("Il Postino") — were released much earlier in the year. "Braveheart," the big winner, was released in May.



"The Crucible," the movie adaptation of Arthur Miller's play that is opening later this month—Oscar buzz is already surrounding the film.

The competitive mind-set endures. 'It's like saying my child is better than your child.'

Similarly, this year the academy may remember earlier entries, like Frances McDormand in "Fargo," Denzel Washington in "Courage Under Fire"; Samuel L. Jackson in "A Time to Kill," John Sayles's film "Lone Star" and fall movies like "Michael Collins" with Liam Neeson, Stanley Tucci's "Big Night," Mike Leigh's "Secrets and Lies," and perhaps Brenda Blethyn from that movie.

But Hollywood persists, however illogically, in loading Oscar candidates into the last five weeks of the year. This year's Oscar buzz surrounds films like "Shine," an Australian film about a troubled pianist; "The Crucible," the movie adaptation of Arthur Miller's play; Milos Forman's "People vs. Larry Flynt," about the pornographer; "The English Patient," which opens on Friday; Kenneth Branagh's "Hamlet"; "Evita," the movie musical about Eva Perón and Jane Campion's "Portrait of a Lady," which stars Nicole Kidman.

In addition, Oscar hopes are being pinned on certain performers in holiday movies, among them, Debbie Reynolds in the comedy "Mother"; Shirley MacLaine in "The Evening Star" (the not-quite sequel to "Terms of Endearment"); Emily Watson in "Breaking the Waves"; Helen Mirren in "Some Mother's Son"; Lauren Bacall in her supporting role in "The Mirror Has Two Faces"; Joan Allen for her supporting role in "The Crucible"; James Woods for his supporting role in "Ghosts of Mississippi"; Diane Keaton in "Marvin's Room"; Woody Harrelson and Courtney Love in "The People vs. Larry Flynt"; Kristin Scott Thomas in "The English Patient"; Madonna in "Evita," and someone (maybe Goldie Hawn) in Woody Allen's musical, "Everyone Says I Love You."

Sometimes studios and film makers seem to go out of their way to maneuver their movies into the holiday season, despite the horrendous traffic jam, on the ground that their movies feel so, well, Christmasy. Take "One Fine Day," a romantic comedy starring Michelle Pfeiffer and George Clooney as single parents who collide in New York. "We were thinking of next year, maybe late winter or early spring," said Peter Chernin, until recently chairman of Fox. "But audiences loved it, and we thought if there's such a thing as a holiday mood, this plays into it."

Another movie that got wedged into the end-of-the-year sweepstakes is "Jerry Maguire," in which Tom Cruise plays a slick sports agent who loses his job and finds his soul. "I knew we were heading into heavy traffic," said Cameron Crowe, the writer and director. "But I just felt this movie had a December feeling.

This time of year people take stock. They think about their lives. I do. There's a happy-sad kind of hoping for the best. It was just — right for December. Of course it helps to have Tom Cruise."

Also big this year are films featuring angels, among them "Michael," a Nora Ephron comedy in which John Travolta plays an unlikely and unshaven angel, and "The Preacher's Wife." Penny Marshall's remake of "The Bishop's Wife," about an angel who comes to help a troubled ministry, starring Whitney Houston alongside Mr. Washington.

Another movie with a hopeful message is the widely anticipated "Shine." "The summer would have been inappropriate in terms of how this feels as a movie," said Ruth Vitale, president of Fine Line Features, which bought the movie at the Sundance Film Festival. "This is a serious but a feel-good movie, and releasing it at the end of the year, when it's fresh in people's minds in terms of the Oscar, is perfect for us."

Finally, there are films like "Marvin's Room," based on the much-praised Scott McPherson Off Broadway play about a family coping with terminal illness. It ended up in the holiday rush whether or not anyone had intended it that way.

"At one point we thought of September for 'Marvin's Room,'" said Mark Gill, president for marketing at Miramax, which is distributing the film. "But then Diane Keaton came out in 'First Wives Club' and it became inappropriate to release it then. We also thought we'd have better luck if we went later." In addition to Ms. Keaton, the ensemble cast of "Marvin's Room" includes Meryl Streep, Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio, Gwen Verdon and Hume Cronyn.

Although official numbers show that Christmas really is a bonanza for movie makers, it still feels as if Hollywood is overdoing things this time of year. But the competitive mind-set endures.

"It's like saying my child is better than your child," said Mr. John N. Krier, president of Exhibitor Relations, a company that monitors box office and film trends.

Or, as Ms. Lansing added, with some bewilderment, "Who's going to see 10 films in one week?"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE BY RAYMOND HAMEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Site of the Sun Bowl
- 7 Busy
- 13 Couch
- 19 — acid (preservative)
- 20 Biblical tempter
- 21 Honors
- 22 1837 literary collection
- 24 Hairy-chested
- 25 Gloaming; to poets
- 26 Shift
- 27 Expert at ledger-demean?
- 28 "Paradise Lost" figure
- 29 Visited the future
- 36 Tad's dad
- 37 Yevushenko's "Babi"
- 38 Reply to "Who's there?"
- 39 Repute
- 40 Like Falstaff
- 43 Turn state's evidence
- 45 Continue without the words
- 46 Rush-hour traffic speed
- 47 "Cosby" co-star
- 49 — in the right direction
- 51 She loved Theseus
- 53 Kind
- 54 Silent signals
- 56 Bridge or wrestling feat
- 59 Bran source
- 60 Tinker with, in a way
- 62 Reprimands
- 66 Covering
- 70 Winsor McCay's "Little" one
- 71 Game-winning cry
- 72 Auto's comfort quality
- 73 Pioneering 1982 film
- 74 100
- 76 Pronto
- 77 Fine-grained wood
- 78 Out of here
- 80 Do some punching
- 82 Beginning Latin word
- 83 Caboose
- 87 Grimm creature
- 90 Noted X-1 pilot
- 92 Romantic painter
- 93 "Up" positions
- 96 Religious ideal
- 97 Reenpeace concern
- 98 Recognition
- 99 Bowwow
- 101 Zeniths, e.g.
- 103 — mo
- 104 Hit song lyric of 1929 and 1968
- 109 Green garnishes
- 110 Sugary suffix
- 111 Mary moons
- 112 Part of i.p.s.
- 115 Trinket; Var.
- 117 Show once hosted by Bud Collyer
- 121 Gentleman thief
- 122 Torments
- 123 Barbara Bush's maiden name

DOWN

- 1 90° from norte
- 2 "Bad Influence" star
- 3 Computer command
- 4 Epitome of simplicity
- 5 "Buttery" legume
- 6 Staff range
- 7 Alaska Senator
- 8 N.Y.C. subway
- 9 Difference in days between the lunar and solar year
- 10 Site of the ancient Pythian Games
- 11 Find after a long search
- 12 Scores; Abbr.
- 13 Maul
- 14 "Dombey and Son" woman
- 15 War film starring Martin Balsam
- 16 Where singer Billy Ocean was born
- 17 Migratory fish
- 18 Storm heading; Abbr.
- 20 With subterfuge
- 23 Cuprite, e.g.
- 28 Like some college honors
- 30 Leaping before looking
- 31 Headset, to hams
- 32 "Phooey!"
- 33 The Buckeyes
- 34 Cut down
- 35 First name in mysteries
- 40 Point in the right direction
- 41 More obvious
- 42 Seal skin wearer
- 44 Convincing evidence
- 46 Org. once headed by Allen Dulles
- 48 Multiplication symbol
- 49 Kind of price
- 50 Repetition for rhetorical effect
- 52 Anti-Communist soldier
- 55 Dinner and a movie, perhaps
- 57 A.B.A. members; Abbr.
- 58 — tung
- 61 Bandanna-clad product "spokesman"
- 63 Prefix with plasm
- 64 Scorpion attack
- 65 Transude
- 67 Aspect
- 68 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer
- 69 Gun sound
- 74 Its slogan was once "Find out how good we really are"
- 75 Part of a count
- 78 French shield
- 81 Clear-eyed
- 83 Southpaw's strength
- 84 Betting game ending
- 85 Like a warm-up exercise
- 86 Heritance
- 88 Words to live by
- 89 Shake a leg
- 91 Straddling
- 94 Classic Japanese theater
- 95 Miser
- 99 Shorty
- 100 "The African Queen" director
- 102 Rotisserie league concern
- 103 Rests
- 105 Sultan Qabus bin Said, e.g.
- 106 Coming-of-age period
- 107 Thumbs-down response
- 108 Jet
- 113 Do acquaintants
- 114 First president of South Korea
- 115 Gender
- 116 Obsolescent preposition
- 117 Use a shuttle
- 118 One of a pack?
- 119 Set the pace
- 120 F.D.R. agcy.



Geoffrey Rush in "Shine," about a troubled pianist—Hollywood persists in loading Oscar candidates into the year's final weeks.



Delroy Lindo and Rene Russo in the thriller "Ransom"—Its opening Friday marked the real start of the holiday movie season.

Families better planned, thanks to Shilo

WHEN a small group of health-care professionals gathered in a one-room apartment exactly 20 years ago today, they had a single goal in mind: helping women who had unintentionally become pregnant.

In the two decades since, Shilo, the organization they founded, has broadened this mission, and tackled a few new ones along the way. In addition to advising pregnant women in the Jerusalem area about their options, Shilo provides family-planning counseling, dispenses birth control, performs pregnancy tests, runs workshops for students and teachers, and helps set up similar programs around the country.

"Our first outreach program was directed (to) adolescents and army age," Shilo director Joanne Zack-Pakes says. "So if you look over the 20 years, you'll see a very small, very focused service on one particular area which has expanded tremendously to incorporate a lot of different areas of sex education and family planning."

"We're constantly adding new programs and projects to our program," she says. Shilo's latest project is an educational outreach program on "family life education" for troubled youths in eastern Jerusalem.

The program, which the Municipal Department of Youth in eastern Jerusalem is cosponsoring, is intended to give adolescents a forum to discuss and learn about the physical and emotional changes they are undergoing and male-female relationships, topics which are often taboo in Arab and Moslem homes.

Social worker Samia Shibli joined Shilo's staff to facilitate the two 12-week pilot workshops for 13- to 18-year-olds. Though Shibli and the other members of the educational staff are paid for their work, the 34 counselors who have completed a four-month course that Zack-Pakes teaches, and the two gynecologists are all volunteers. While nearly all of the volunteer counselors are professional educators or social workers, Zack-Pakes says she mainly seeks volunteers who "are open, nonjudgmental and know how to establish a connection quickly with an adolescent. That's really, really important."

Zack-Pakes plans to open another course for new volunteers later this month. The volunteer organization provides counseling and clinical services to some 1,200 clients a year. Of these, 80 percent are under 21. About half of the clients come in for advice about birth control. A quarter of Shilo's clients are pregnant and interested in abortion. Zack-Pakes says 98% of them have an abortion because "most of them come in with that decision made."

However, Zack-Pakes is emphatic that Shilo is not an abortion clinic and that its goal is family planning. "Family planning doesn't mean having fewer children: family planning can mean 10 children, but to plan it out so that it's for the best, for the woman's health, the family as a whole's health, not just physical but mental and emotional," she says.

Shilo's educational branch works to this end in various sectors of

Jerusalem. Shilo was one of the first groups to address the needs of Russian immigrants and also helped the Joint Distribution Committee plan an outreach program for Ethiopians.

One population group Shilo hasn't done outreach work in is the religious sector, Zack-Pakes says, though she adds that Shilo does have religious clients.

"There's so much work to do in the secular [sector] and we don't have enough staff. We're overworked as it is," she says.

Shilo devotes a large portion of its \$150,000 annual budget to the rent for its office on King George Street - where it is easily accessible to teens - and has a minimal paid staff.

"Our funding is not something we can rely on. Every year we have to reapply [for government and municipal funds]."

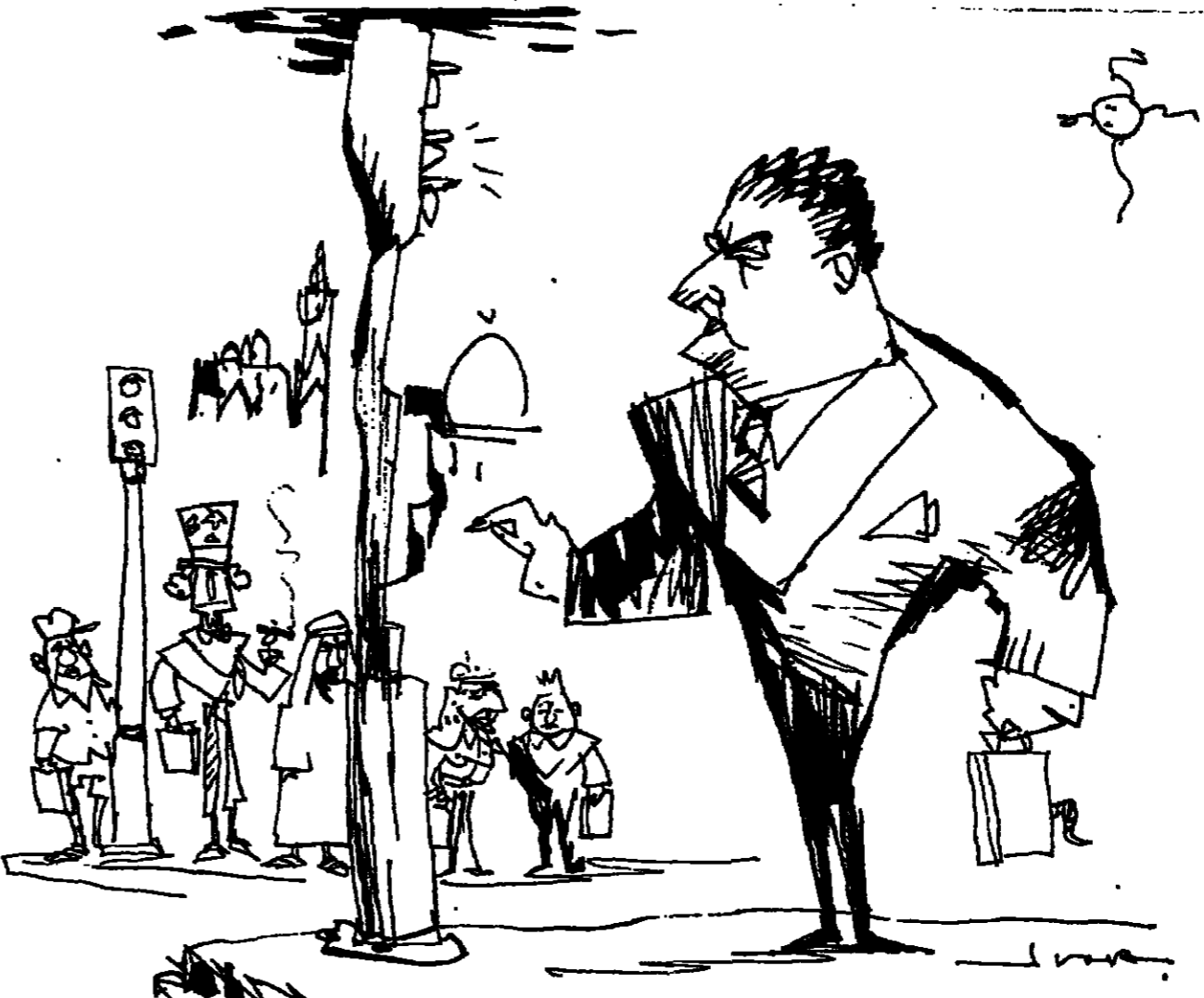
"Most of our funding comes from abroad," from organizations, family foundations and individuals, she says.

That considered, Shilo has accomplished a lot, she says proudly.

"If I look back 20 years ago, family planning wasn't on the agenda at all [and] adults wouldn't admit kids were being sexually active [and now they will]."

"I still believe it has a long way to go. Family planning should be a part of the Kupat Holim service, it should be a natural part of the preventive health care one gets. [It] has a long way to go yet in Israel."

Shilo is celebrating its 20th anniversary tonight at 8:30 at the Jerusalem Cinematheque with a reception followed by the screening of *Twist and Shout*.



Business, yes; politics, no

As the Cairo Conference kicks off, Hillel Kuttler uncovers the hopes and expectations of the American participants

EGYPTIAN-Israeli tensions are fading, Israeli-Palestinian clashes were an aberration, and business, business lies awaiting. That, at least, is the hope of US government officials and industrialists as they look toward tomorrow's opening of the Cairo regional economic conference.

Recent Middle East turmoil had them wondering, as recently as September, whether the event would even occur. Now that it is, plans are proceeding normally, they say. "It's been a problem because the Egyptians were showing a yellow light and we didn't see a full green light until [Egyptian President Hosni] Mubarak gave the go-ahead," a US official said.

All the more reason the Clinton Administration is gratified by the record 240 American businesses and 40 chief executive officers registered.

"I think the dedication that has been demonstrated by our US companies, in light of the uncertainties about the summit, speaks volumes," US undersecretary of commerce for international trade Stuart Eizenstat told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy last week. "And quite frankly, the kinds of questions that I have gotten - from US companies [are] simply, 'Just tell us, is this summit going to happen or isn't it?'" Eizenstat said.

While the first regional conference in Casablanca two years ago was a political breakthrough, and last year's in Amman was more business-oriented, Cairo could be a turning point in steering the gathering toward a purely commercial event.

Egypt may have inadvertently contributed to that change through its decision this month to not invite heads of government - thus the renaming of the event as a conference rather than the summit it had been in 1994 and 1995. That decision followed Cairo's earlier threat to cancel or postpone the

gathering in a pique over Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's policies on the peace process.

Egypt stands to benefit most from the conference it is hosting. Four hundred of the 1,200 businesspeople attending from across the world will be Egyptian, and said Cairo's ambassador to the US Ahmed Maher el-Sayed, "very honestly, we will take advantage to showcase the Egyptian economy."

American officials also believe the international business community is bound to be reassured by Egypt's structural reforms - especially in the areas of privatization, foreign ownership, and intellectual property laws - carried out by Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri. "We want people to know there's been a significant effort by the Egyptian government to make it easier for companies to do business in Egypt. That's the primary reason I'm going," said Jim Brewington, of Lucent Technologies, who co-chairs the Presidents' Council, formed two years ago by Clinton and Mubarak to stimulate US-Egyptian trade.

As they have done before, US State Department and Commerce Department officials made a big push to encourage American corporate executives to attend this conference. They sent out questionnaires to the American companies that expressed an interest in attending. The responses were used as "matchmaking" tools with foreign companies, and "dozens and dozens" of matches will meet in Cairo, a Commerce Department official said.

In addition, three US ambassadors to the region - Ryan

Crocker (Kuwait), David Litt (United Arab Emirates) and Wyche Fowler (Saudi Arabia) - returned this summer to market the conference to American executives in Los Angeles, Dallas and New York.

Announcements about developments on several major regional development projects are to be made on Wednesday.

And some of the large companies represented will announce their own deals - including American Express, said James Li, the company's president for developing markets.

Some of the more ambitious regional projects have faded since Amman, leading to some frustration all around. The US Congress has yet to appropriate the funds for the Middle East Development Bank that was announced amid great fanfare last year.

A regional business council also failed to take off, as has the Middle East Travel and Tourism Association (METTA) that planned to package regional tourist destinations.

"We don't want METTA to stay stagnant," said Li, who also chairs METTA's Americas division. "What's going to have to happen is to create a general level of awareness and understanding, get governments to think of airline agreements and hotel development. What we'd really like to see is development to world-class standards. We want to make sure capacities meet increasing demand."

Ambassador Maher el-Sayed said he holds out fewer hopes for regional economic integration in light of concerns over the

Netanyahu government. Foreign businesses "will look at regional potentialities, but in my opinion there will be no progress except in bilateral [business] relations," he said. "We thought it would be important to hold [the conference] as a symbol of what is possible, but also with the understanding it will not lead to concrete results on the regional plane... The atmosphere is not conducive."

While business will dominate in ways that in Casablanca and Amman it did not, no one expects the public sector to disappear. A semi-annual meeting will take place with the trade-commerce ministers of the five countries that first met in Taba last year. At Cairo the participants are the US's Mickey Kantor, Israel's Natan Sharansky, the PA's Maher Masri, Ali Abul Raghib of Jordan, and Nawal Abdelmoneim Tatawi of Egypt.

The American delegation to Cairo is being led by two departing Cabinet members: Kantor and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Nor can the political climate be ignored. US officials expected a deal on the IDF's Hebron redeployment to have been wrapped up by now, which would have done "a great deal to improve the environment" in Cairo, a State Department official said last week. But officials now concede that Israel and the PA are not there yet.

Business leaders, meanwhile, are hoping for future conferences to unleash economics from politics.

"I'm not forecasting any miracles. I just hope it will move forward rather than a half-step backward," said Jack Tymann, president of Westinghouse International.

"The fact we're being heard is very, very encouraging. The fact the [Israeli] election didn't go the way someone wanted it to - you can't let that set back the whole process."

Conservationists in a rut over rhinos

EARTHLY CONCERNS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL



The black rhino's prized horn is precious to poachers, who are the main source of the species' troubles. (Camera Press)

conservationists want to see the trade legalized and rhinos ranched and their horn harvested. Surgical removal of the horns in the males does not appear to cause them any harm, and they are still valuable breeding stock. As to whether the females make less successful mothers is, as yet, an unanswered question.

But some conservationists say that cropping rhino horn may be the answer to the survival of the species. In South Africa, home of the largest rhino population today, there are several tons of rhino horn stockpiled. Most of this horn is from animals that have died of natural causes or in accidents, and some from the practice in some reserves of removing the horn surgically to discourage poachers.

However, other conservationists say that legalizing the trade will mean the end of the rhino since it is only the fear of being imprisoned or shot by rangers that keep some, possibly many, people from poaching.

Gun battles are not a rarity between rangers and poachers, and George Adams, a famous ranger and wildlife expert in Kenya, paid with his life for his anti-poaching activities.

In addition, many fear that since there is no way of identifying the source of the horns, the poachers will simply sell a bit cheaper than the legal trade and competition for horn will wipe out what's left of the rhino population.

Both sides are adamant in their approach and the reasoning of both sides has the ring of sincerity and of a real desire to protect the species. But what really is the best way of handling the problem is not clear.

rhinos, even the females have a horn that is of value. Although there has been a ban on the sale of rhino horn for many years, the user countries have continually turned a blind eye to this traffic, and rhino horn can be purchased in any Asian pharmacy that deals in traditional Chinese remedies. The horn used not only for its purported aphrodisiac effect, but also as a drug to reduce fever. According to researchers it is surprisingly effective for the latter purpose, and even shaved rhino hair has an anti-febrile quality much the same as that of aspirin. Now, having seen that the methods to protect the rhinos that are so far in use have failed to halt the rapid rhino decline, some conser-

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Precious metals higher on dollar's weakness
COMMODITIES ROUND-UP
PRECIOUS metals futures closed mostly higher Friday, with further weakness in the US dollar against major currencies...

Norfolk Southern raises bid for Conrail to \$10b.

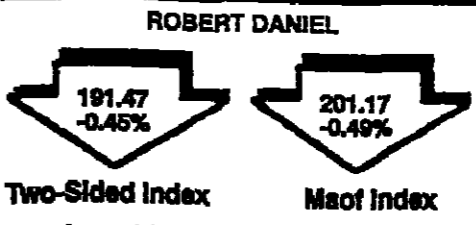
NEW YORK (Reuters) - Raising the stakes in the escalating battle for Conrail Inc., Norfolk Southern Corp. Friday sweetened its hostile bid for the railroad to \$10 billion in cash. Norfolk Southern's original offer of \$9.1b. was already higher than a proposed \$8.5b. transaction planned between Conrail and CSX Corp. but the new bid of \$110 per share further widened the gap.

whom already have expressed dissatisfaction with the CSX deal. Industry sources also said Conrail was unlikely to be swayed from its planned merger with CSX. Instead, they said the outcome of the bidding war was increasingly likely to be decided by Conrail's shareholders, who will ultimately determine if the railroad should strike the \$8.5b. deal with CSX when there is a \$10b. offer on the table.

strengthen its position by aggressively urging Conrail shareholders to defeat the CSX transaction. "It's got to be like Bob Dole's marathon, but with a more successful conclusion," said one, referring to the 96-hour campaign blitz launched by the losing presidential candidate in the days before this week's election.

Shares drop, led down by Teva, Bezeq

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



SHARE indexes dropped in quiet trading, led down by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. and Bezeq. Traders and investors were indifferent to yesterday's Jerusalem Business Conference and the economic summit set for Cairo this week, analysts said.

said, Teva also received two clearances for drugs from the US Food and Drug Administration in that period. Teva's ordinary shares were the most active in Tel Aviv today, slipping 0.25% on trading of NIS 5.9n.

Pope urges solution to Third World debt Kodak sues employees for technology theft

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope John Paul said Friday that heavy debt was stifling nascent democracies in the Third World and he urged the international community to help solve the problem as a Christian act in the run-up to the year 2000. The Pontiff also told a Vatican conference on democracy and values that moral relativism, or lack of absolute moral values, undermined the beliefs upon which all democracies were based.

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (Reuters) - Eastman Kodak Co. said Friday it was suing two former employees, a research center supervisor and a developmental engineer, for allegedly stealing and selling "tens of millions" of dollars worth of its photography technology to competitors. The suit, filed in federal court in Rochester, names Harold Worden, a former supervisor at Kodak Park, the firm's main film manufacturing and research and development center, and Kurt Strobl, an engineer who left the company on Wednesday, Kodak spokesman James Blamphin said.

long probe by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US Attorney's office, Blamphin said. He said the probe, which continues, was begun at the request of the company. In a letter to employees released Friday, Kodak said Worden set up a consulting firm, Worden Enterprises Inc., after he retired from the company in 1992. Between 1993 and 1995, the letter said, Worden Enterprises provided technical and engineering services to various clients, including companies that manufacture products that compete with those sold by Kodak.

Dubai unveils five-year development plan

DUBAI (Reuters) - United Arab Emirates member state Dubai on Saturday unveiled its first five-year economic plan which aims at five percent annual growth, a bigger non-oil sector and reduced reliance on expatriate labor. Director-general of Dubai's Economic Department, Mohammad Alabbar, said the 1996-2000 plan aimed at "boosting the economy to achieve further growth in future, decreasing dependence on oil and boosting the role of the local workforce."

improve investment policies and provide better information, including economic statistics. He said infrastructure needed to be upgraded and human resources developed. Under the plan, trade and tourism would benefit by strengthening relations with emerging markets. Alabbar said the emirate hoped to attract investment of 44.5 billion dirhams (\$12.13 billion) to the year 2000. Some 16.9 billion was expected in communications, transport and storage. Manufacturing came next with 12 billion dirhams, followed by water and power, with 6 billion and commerce with 5.3 billion.

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Olivetti sells stake in Omnitel to Mannesmann

MILAN (Reuters) - Italy's Olivetti reached a deal with German engineering and telecom company Mannesmann AG Friday to sell a 5.8 percent stake in Italian mobile phone operator Omnitel Pronto Italia. The deal means Olivetti's share in Omnitel Pronto Italia, Italy's second cellular phone service operator, falls to 35.5% from 41.3%, an Olivetti spokesman said.

Coffee-producing nations seek to keep squeeze on supply

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (Reuters) - Coffee-producing nations met Saturday, seeking to keep control of coffee supplies as consumers scrambled for stocks. The technical group of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) started a closed-door session in the Costa Rican capital hoping to thrash out adjustments to the cartel's coffee export-limit plan in one day, sources said.

million bags. The cartel groups the globe's biggest producer nations and the 14-member council accounts for more than 80 percent of world output, though a handful of medium-sized roaster producer nations, such as Mexico and Guatemala, are not members. The market is showing the first signs of prices rising because of a shortage of coffee due to the export limit plan. This week, December contracts in New York surged to fresh 11 week highs, largely on news that certified US stocks fell to only 804 60-kg bags in the week, the equivalent of just three trading lots of coffee on the market.

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